

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

GENERAL

Yugoslavia Fails to Win
Cuban Friendship

1997

Cuba has become increasingly unreceptive to Yugoslav overtures for closer relations. Following Castro's return from the recent UN General Assembly session, he ordered Cuban papers not to publish material received from the Yugoslav Embassy, according to a usually reliable source [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Cuban Communist daily, Hoy, has openly attacked Yugoslavia for its membership in the defunct Balkan Pact, acceptance of US aid, and disruption of "international socialist solidarity."

Belgrade, nevertheless, continues to court Castro and has offered to build patrol boats and industrial installations. In addition Yugoslavia is maintaining its public support of Cuba, most recently in connection with the UN's decision to debate Cuban charges against the United States. On 26 October, the Yugoslavs claimed that the US was attempting to subvert Cuba's "justified striving for liberation from the domination of foreign private capital" by picturing the Cuban situation as bloc infiltration in Latin America. Belgrade sharply condemned the US embargo on exports to Cuba, and predicted that the political and economic

isolation of Cuba will have serious consequences for the US position in Latin America.

Cuban intransigence results in part from the dissatisfaction of Cuban diplomats in Belgrade over the physical facilities placed at their disposal and Belgrade's apparent unwillingness to buy Cuban products. Havana may also wish to avoid worsening its relations with the bloc by cooperating with Yugoslavia. Despite its difficulties in increasing ties with Cuba, Yugoslavia's statement on Cuba on 26 October suggests that Belgrade intends to press its efforts to improve relations with Havana, perhaps including purchase of Cuban commodities it cannot use.

